

SHOW ME BROADBAND

Dedicated to ensuring that every home, farm, and business in Missouri has fast, reliable, and affordable internet.

July 2025

AGENDA

- BJ Tanksley, Director, Missouri Office of Broadband and Staff
 - All Things Relating to the BEAD Process – Updates
 - Anything new on DO Grants
- Drew Garner, Benton Institute
 - What are we hearing on the federal front on BEAD and DE?
 - What advocacy is occurring
 - What can you do
- Representative Louis Riggs
 - What's the latest in legislature?
- Janie
 - What is happening in Missouri?

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

- Will not be able to answer every question clearly due to short timeframe on this revised process but will answer what they can
- Need providers/applicants to make application as want to get as many service locations covered
 - 75% locations were to be covered in round 1 and want to do it again
 - Opened application period 7/10/25 through 7/24 at 5:00 pm
 - Stayed with the same service location areas
 - OBD will review applications immediately after 7/24
 - After review another “lightning round” will occur for remaining unserved areas but will be based on location to location
 - Late August 7 day public comment period
 - Sept 4 final proposal due to NTIA

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

- **Q+A**

- **What is NTIA telling you?**
 - **Don't ask for an extension now. Work the process, try to meet the current timelines and then if need more time, end request with justification.**
- **Have you seen any impact on providers that previously applied? Any drop out?**
 - **The application period just opened so too early to tell. Application process has been simplified.**
- **Were any locations removed from eligibility due to being already served by Fixed Wireless**
 - **No – a few were reported as served and third party reviewed. They did not meet speed and/or scalability requirements (determined on project basis)**

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

- **Q&A (cont)**
 - **Does high- cost areas have to have the 25% match?**
 - **No**
 - **Some providers were to provide service by 12?**
 - **No – OBD has requested waiver to add 700/800 locations that did not get served so they will become eligible locations now (included on maps). Waiting on NTIA approval.**
 - **A provider stated they had over \$100,000 invested in first application and now have to do again. Hardship on providers.**
 - **BJ indicated that he understood but hoped some could be reimbursed as an eligible expense if award granted**

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

- **Q&A (cont)**
 - **Providers can take out up to 20% of the locations from the area. Concern about getting these areas served.**
 - **These locations can be bid on during the “lightning round”.**

BJ indicated that the application guide would be posted to the website this afternoon.

Drew Garner, Benton Institute

BEAD Letter

- Defend Missouri's Final Proposal against federal interference.
- Template coming soon.
- Deadline: Late August.

Digital Opportunity Letter

- Encourage AG Bailey to fight for Missouri's ~\$35m DO funds.
- [Template letter](#)
 - **MO specific letter at:** https://docs.google.com/document/d/18qa-ANitY4o1xr_mli0yNFDJzU1MN8OCaAeK_ftpC-c/edit?tab=t.0
- Deadline: Soon

Janie, Show Me Broadband

- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**
 - Need suggestions on what returned RDOF funds should be used for IF they are returned to the state. Send ideas to Janie.
 - We can call special meeting just to discuss these options.
- **DO Grant Program Termination – what now?**
 - Had planned working group for this month but the BEAD changes and new process diverted us.
 - Will plan for August/September
 - If you want to be a part of the group, send me an email so you receive notification.
 - Primary objectives are to discuss what, if anything the state can do or alternatives to getting training and devices across the state

SHOW ME BROADBAND

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